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Acoustic and Low Frequency Hydrodynamic Loads at CLTP Power Level on Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 Steam Dryer to 250 Hz

Revision 2

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Executive Summary

Measured strain gage time-history data in the four main steam lines at Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 (BFN1) were processed by a dynamic model of the steam delivery system to predict loads on the full-scale steam dryer. These measured data were first converted to pressures, then positioned on the four main steam lines and used to extract acoustic sources in the system. A validated acoustic circuit methodology was used to predict the fluctuating pressures anticipated across components of the steam dryer in the reactor vessel. The acoustic circuit methodology included a low frequency hydrodynamic contribution, in addition to an acoustic contribution at all frequencies. This pressure loading was then provided for structural analysis to assess the structural adequacy of the steam dryer in BFN1.

This effort provides BFN1 with a dryer dynamic load definition that comes directly from measured BFN1 full-scale data and the application of a validated acoustic circuit methodology, at a power level where data were acquired.

Table of Contents

Section		Page
	Executive Summary	i
	Table of Contents	ii
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Modeling Considerations	2
	2.1 Helmholtz Analysis	2
	2.2 Acoustic Circuit Analysis	3
	2.3 Low Frequency Contribution	4
3.	Input Pressure Data	5
4.	Results	14
5.	Uncertainty Analysis	21
6.	Conclusions	23
7.	References	24

1. Introduction

In Spring 2005 Exelon installed new stream dryers into Quad Cities Unit 2 (QC2) and Quad Cities Unit 1. This replacement design, developed by General Electric, sought to improve dryer performance and overcome structural inadequacies identified on the original dryers, which had been in place for the last 30 years. As a means for confirming the adequacy of the steam dryer, the QC2 replacement dryer was instrumented with pressure sensors at 27 locations. These pressures formed the set of data used to validate the predictions of an acoustic circuit methodology under development by Continuum Dynamics, Inc. (C.D.I.) for several years [1]. One of the results of this benchmark exercise [2] confirmed the predictive ability of the acoustic circuit methodology for pressure loading across the dryer, with the inclusion of a low frequency hydrodynamic load. This methodology, validated against the Exelon full-scale data and identified as the Modified Bounding Pressure model, is used in the effort discussed herein.

This report applies this validated methodology to the Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 (BFN1) steam dryer and main steam line geometry. Strain gage data obtained from the four main steam lines were used to predict pressure levels on the BFN1 full-scale dryer at Current Licensed Thermal Power (CLTP).

2. Modeling Considerations

The acoustic circuit analysis of the BFN1 steam supply system is broken into two distinct analyses: a Helmholtz solution within the steam dome and an acoustic circuit analysis in the main steam lines. This section of the report highlights the two approaches taken here. These analyses are then coupled for an integrated solution.

2.1 Helmholtz Analysis

A cross-section of the steam dome (and steam dryer) is shown below in Figure 2.1, with BFN1 dimensions as shown [3]. The complex three-dimensional geometry is rendered onto a uniformly-spaced rectangular grid (with mesh spacing of approximately 1.5 inches to accommodate frequency from 0 to 250 Hz in full scale), and a solution, over the frequency range of interest, is obtained for the Helmholtz equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2}+\frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial y^2}+\frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial z^2}+\frac{\omega^2}{a^2}P=\nabla^2 P+\frac{\omega^2}{a^2}P=0$$

where P is the pressure at a grid point, ω is frequency, and a is acoustic speed in steam.

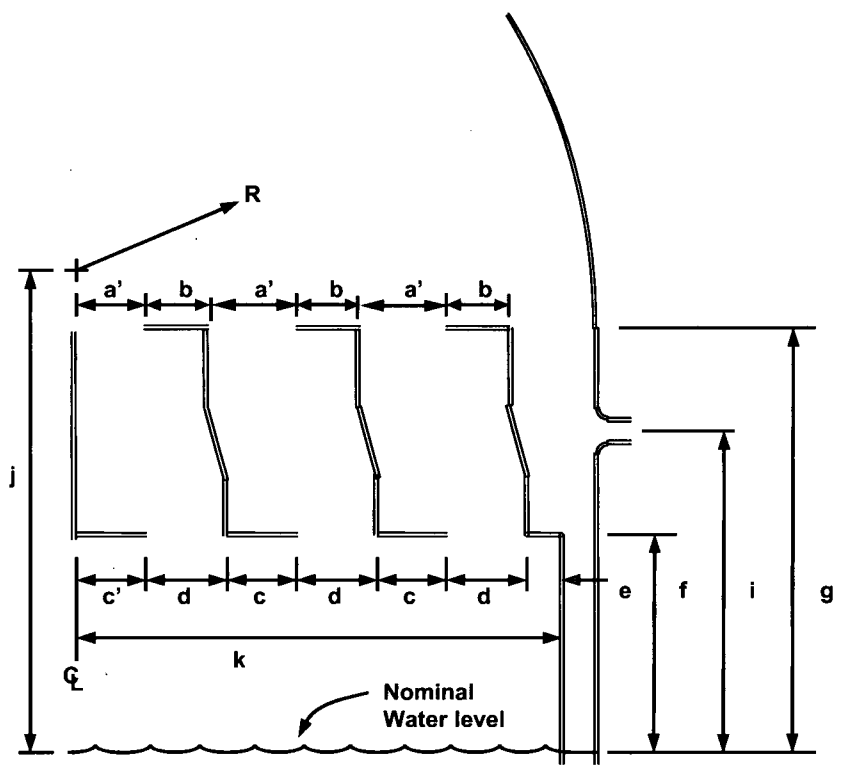

Figure 2.1. Cross-sectional description of the steam dome and dryer, with the BFN1 dimensions of a' = 16.0 in, b = 16.0 in, c' = 24.0 in, c = 14.5 in, d = 17.5 in, e = 15.5 in, f = 74.0 in, g = 163.0 in, i = 97.5 in, j = 189.0 in, k = 121.0 in, and R = 125.7 in (dimensions deduced from [3] to within 1.5 inches).

This equation is solved for incremental frequencies from 0 to 250 Hz (full scale), subject to the boundary conditions

$$\frac{dP}{dn} = 0$$

normal to all solid surfaces (the steam dome wall and interior and exterior surfaces of the dryer),

$$\frac{dP}{dn} \propto \frac{i\omega}{a} P$$

normal to the nominal water level surface, and unit pressure applied to one inlet to a main steam line and zero applied to the other three.

2.2 Acoustic Circuit Analysis

The Helmholtz solution within the steam dome is coupled to an acoustic circuit solution in the main steam lines. Pulsation in a single-phase compressible medium, where acoustic wavelengths are long compared to transverse dimensions (directions perpendicular to the primary flow directions), lend themselves to application of the acoustic circuit methodology. If the analysis is restricted to frequencies below 250 Hz, acoustic wavelengths are approximately 8 feet in length and wavelengths are therefore long compared to most components of interest, such as branch junctions.

Acoustic circuit analysis divides the main steam lines into elements which are each characterized, as sketched in Figure 2.2, by a length L, a cross-sectional area A, a fluid mean density $\bar{\rho}$, a fluid mean flow velocity $\bar{U}$, and a fluid mean acoustic speed $\bar{a}$.

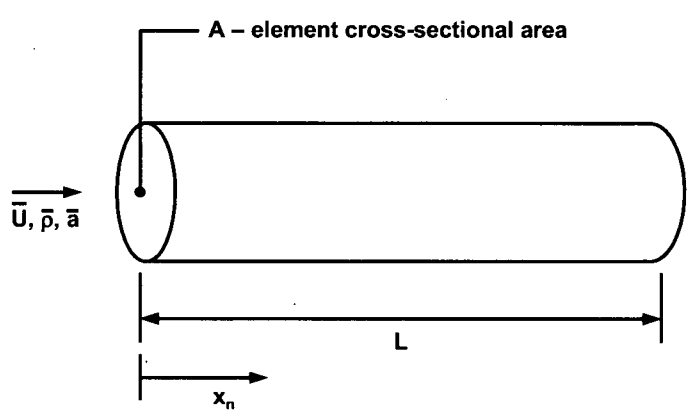

Figure 2.2. Schematic of an element in the acoustic circuit analysis, with length L and cross-sectional area A.

Application of acoustic circuit methodology generates solutions for the fluctuating pressure P_n and velocity u_n in the nth element of the form

$$P_n = \left[A_n e^{ik_{1n}x_n} + B_n e^{ik_{2n}x_n}\right] e^{i\omega t}$$

$$u_n = -\frac{1}{\rho \bar{a}^2}\left[\frac{\left(\omega + \bar{U}_n k_{1n}\right)}{k_{1n}} A_n e^{ik_{1n}x_n} + \frac{\left(\omega + \bar{U}_n k_{2n}\right)}{k_{2n}} B_n e^{ik_{2n}x_n}\right] e^{i\omega t}$$

where harmonic time dependence of the form $e^{i\omega t}$ has been assumed. The wave numbers k_{1n} and k_{2n} are the two complex roots of the equation

$$k_n^{\,2} + i\frac{f_n\left|\bar{U}_n\right|}{D_n \bar{a}^2}\left(\omega + \bar{U}_n k_n\right) - \frac{1}{\bar{a}^2}\left(\omega + \bar{U}_n k_n\right)^2 = 0$$

where f_n is the pipe friction factor for element n, D_n is the hydrodynamic diameter for element n, and $i = \sqrt{-1}$. A_n and B_n are complex constants which are a function of frequency and are determined by satisfying continuity of pressure and mass conservation at element junctions.

The solution for pressure and velocity in the main steam lines is coupled to the Helmholtz solution in the steam dome, to predict the pressure loading on the steam dryer.

The main steam line piping geometry is summarized in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Main steam line lengths at BFN1. Main steam line diameter is 26 inch (ID = 24.0 in).

Main Steam Line	Length to First Strain Gage Measurement (ft)	Length to Second Strain Gage Measurement (ft)
A	9.5	34.5
B	9.5	34.5
C	10.0	34.5
D	9.5	34.5

2.3 Low Frequency Contribution

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3. Input Pressure Data

Strain gages were mounted on the four main steam lines of BFN1. Four data sets were examined in this analysis. The first data set recorded the strain at Current Licensed Thermal Power (100% power level or CLTP), the second data set recorded the strain at near-zero voltage on the strain gages (EIC noise) at CLTP, the third data set recorded the strain at 9% power level, and the fourth data set recorded the strain at near-zero voltage on the strain gages (EIC noise) at 22% power level with recirculation pump speed the same as when the 9% power level signal was recorded. The data were provided in the following files:

Data File Name	Power Level	Voltage
20070608155619	100%	10.0 V
20070608155258	100%	0.01 V (EIC)
20070527180210	9%	10.0 V
20080814104550	22%	0.01 V (EIC)

The strain gage signals were converted to pressures by the use of the conversion factors provided in [4] and summarized in Table 3.1. Exclusion frequencies were used to remove extraneous signals, as also identified in [4] and subsequent emails, and summarized in Tables 3.2 and 3.3. The electrical noise was removed by applying the function

$$P_S(\omega) = P_{SN}(\omega)\left[1 - \left|\frac{P_N(\omega)}{P_{SN}(\omega)}\right|\right]$$

where $P_S(\omega)$ is the CLTP signal $P_{SN}(\omega)$ corrected for electrical noise $P_N(\omega)$, computed as a function of frequency ω, and $|P_N(\omega)/P_{SN}(\omega)|$ can be no larger than 1.0. These signals were further processed by the coherence factor and mean filtering as described in [2]. Coherence at CLTP and Low Power conditions is shown in Figure 3.1.

The resulting main steam line pressure signals may be represented in two ways, by their minimum and maximum pressure levels, and by their PSDs. Table 3.4 provides the pressure level information, after removal of EIC and exclusion filtering, while Figures 3.2 to 3.5 compare the frequency content at the eight measurement locations. The frequency content around 218 Hz has been removed from the signals plotted here, in anticipation of the use of inserts in the blank standpipes on main steam lines A and D [5] to mitigate this load.

Table 3.1. Conversion factors from strain to pressure [4]. Channels are averaged to give the average strain.

	Strain to Pressure (psid/μstrain)	Channel Number	Channel Number	Channel Number	Channel Number
MSL A Upper	2.997	1	2	3	4
MSL A Lower	3.027	5	6	7	8
MSL B Upper	3.034	9	10	11	12
MSL B Lower	2.993	13	14	15	16
MSL C Upper	2.912	17	18	19	20
MSL C Lower	2.962	21	22	23	24
MSL D Upper	2.959	25	26	27	28
MSL D Lower	3.007	29	30	31	32

Table 3.2. Exclusion frequencies for BFN1 strain gage data, as suggested in [4] and subsequent emails, Low Power. VFD = variable frequency drive. Recirc = recirculation pumps.

Low Power Frequency Interval (Hz)	Exclusion Cause
0 – 2	Mean
59.8 – 60.2	Line Noise
119.9 – 120.1	Line Noise
179.8 – 180.2	Line Noise
239.9 – 240.1	Line Noise
15.9 – 16.1	VFD (1x)
39.8 – 40.3	Recirc Shaft Speed (5x)
79.9 – 80.1	Recirc Shaft Speed (10x)

Table 3.3. Exclusion frequencies for BFN1 strain gage data, as suggested in [4] and subsequent emails, CLTP. VFD = variable frequency drive. Recirc = recirculation pumps.

CLTP Frequency Interval (Hz)	Exclusion Cause
0 – 2	Mean
59.8 – 60.2	Line Noise
119.9 – 120.1	Line Noise
179.8 – 180.2	Line Noise
239.9 – 240.1	Line Noise
51.3 – 51.7	VFD (1x)
127.0 – 128.5	Recirc Pumps A, B Speed (5x)
217.9 – 219.6	Standpipe Excitation

Table 3.4. Main steam line (MSL) pressure levels in BFN1: CLTP.

	Minimum Pressure (psid)	Maximum Pressure (psid)	RMS Pressure (psid)
MSL A Upper	-1.82	1.95	0.43
MSL A Lower	-1.90	2.11	0.46
MSL B Upper	-1.92	2.34	0.47
MSL B Lower	-2.06	2.19	0.51
MSL C Upper	-2.17	2.42	0.53
MSL C Lower	-2.62	2.39	0.58
MSL D Upper	-2.08	2.09	0.51
MSL D Lower	-1.93	2.25	0.46

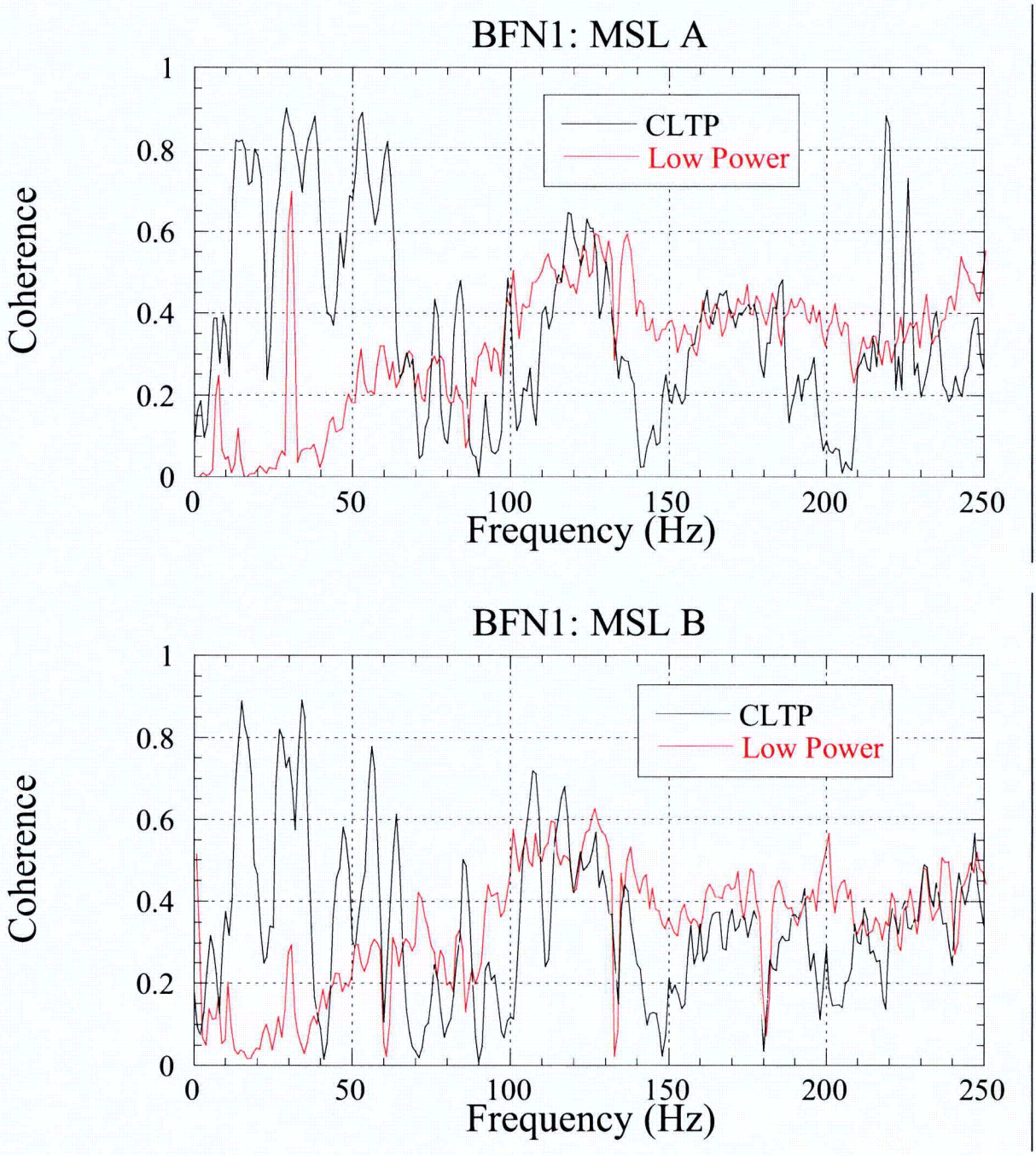

Figure 3.1a. Coherence between the upper and lower strain gage readings at BFN1: main steam line A (top); main steam line B (bottom); for CLTP (black curves) and Low Power (red curves).

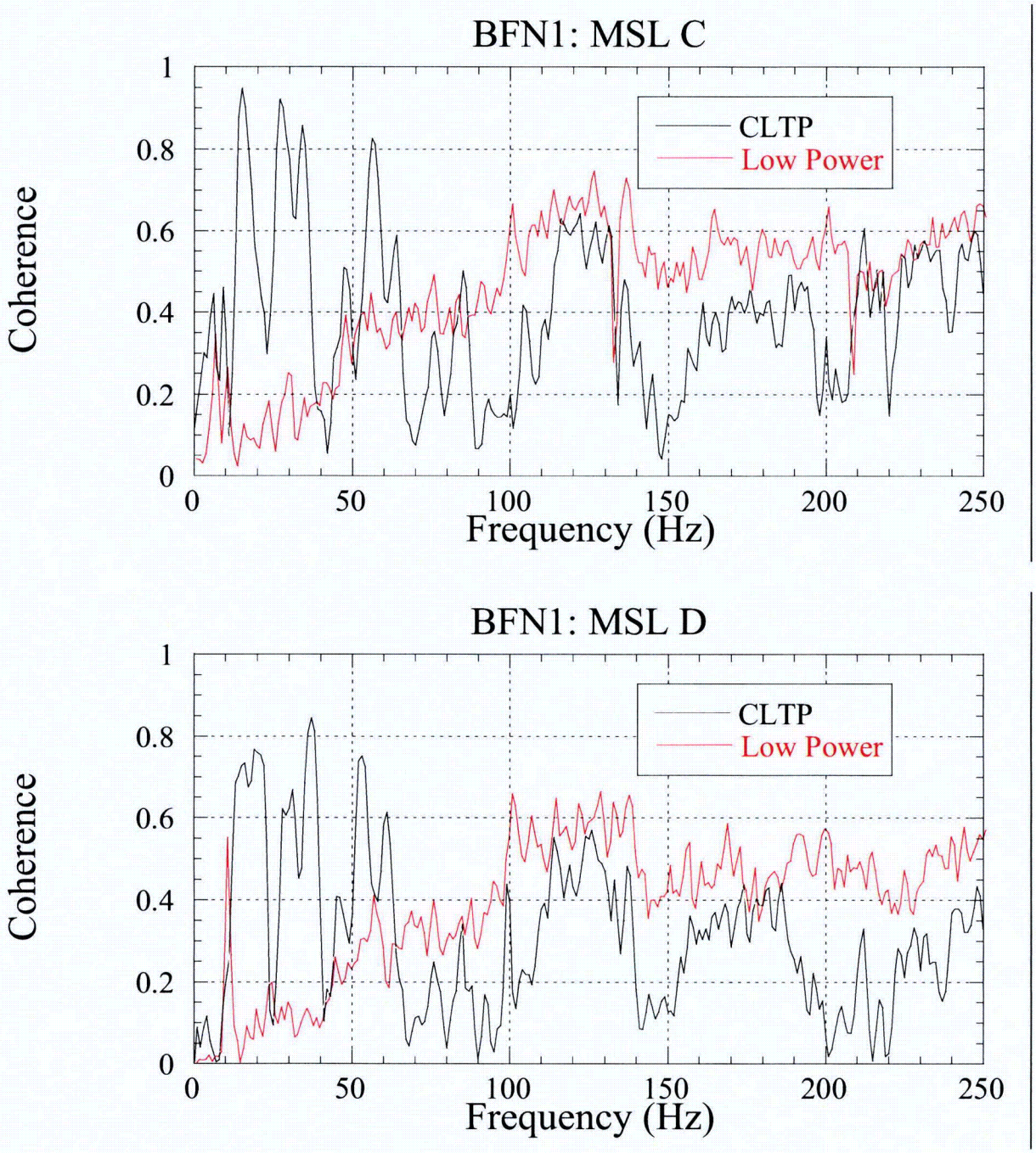

Figure 3.1b. Coherence between the upper and lower strain gage readings at BFN1: main steam line C (top); main steam line D (bottom); for CLTP (black curves) and Low Power (red curves).

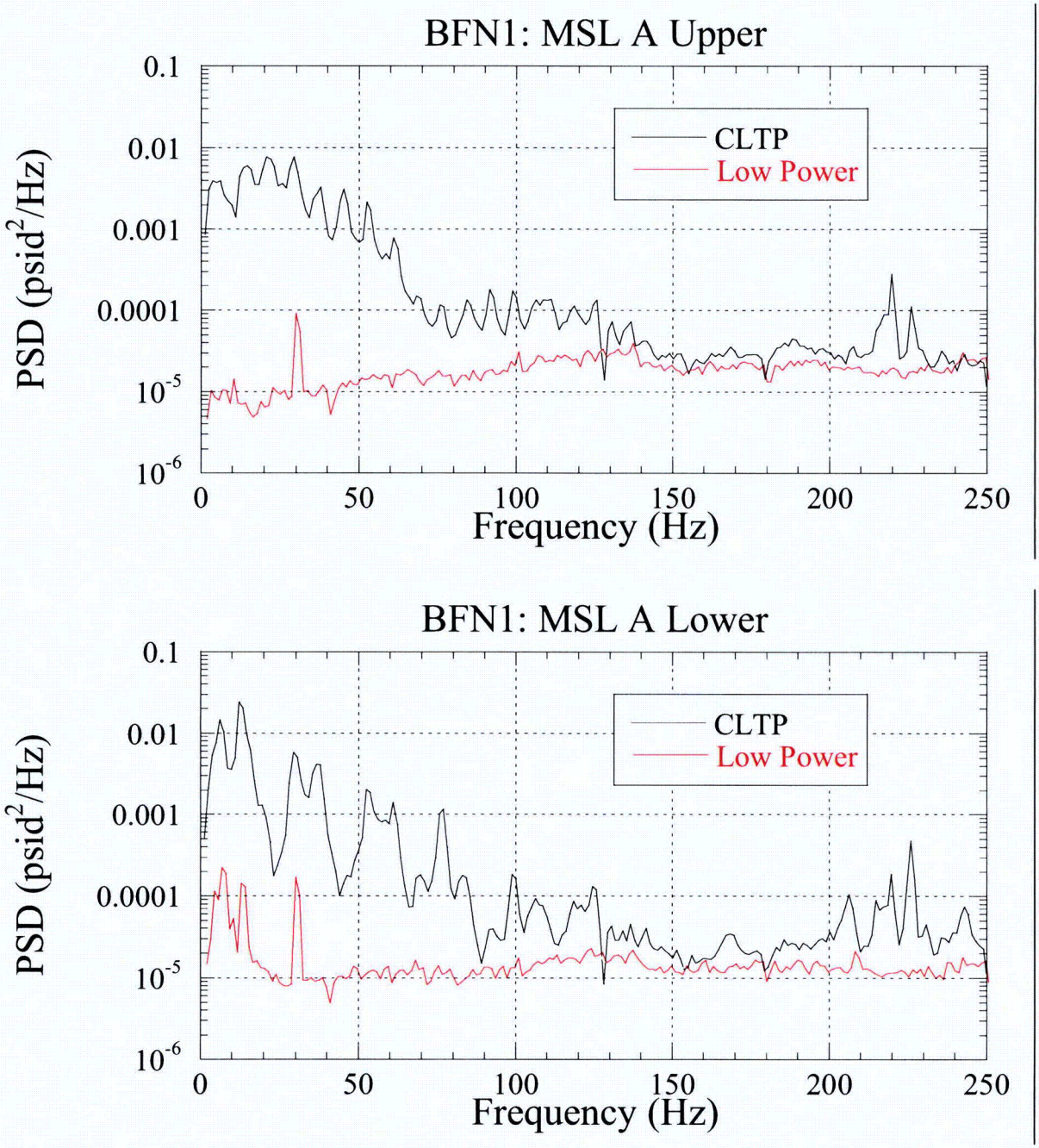

Figure 3.2. PSD comparison of pressure measurements on main steam line A at strain gage locations upper (top) and lower (bottom), for CLTP (black curves) and Low Power (red curves).

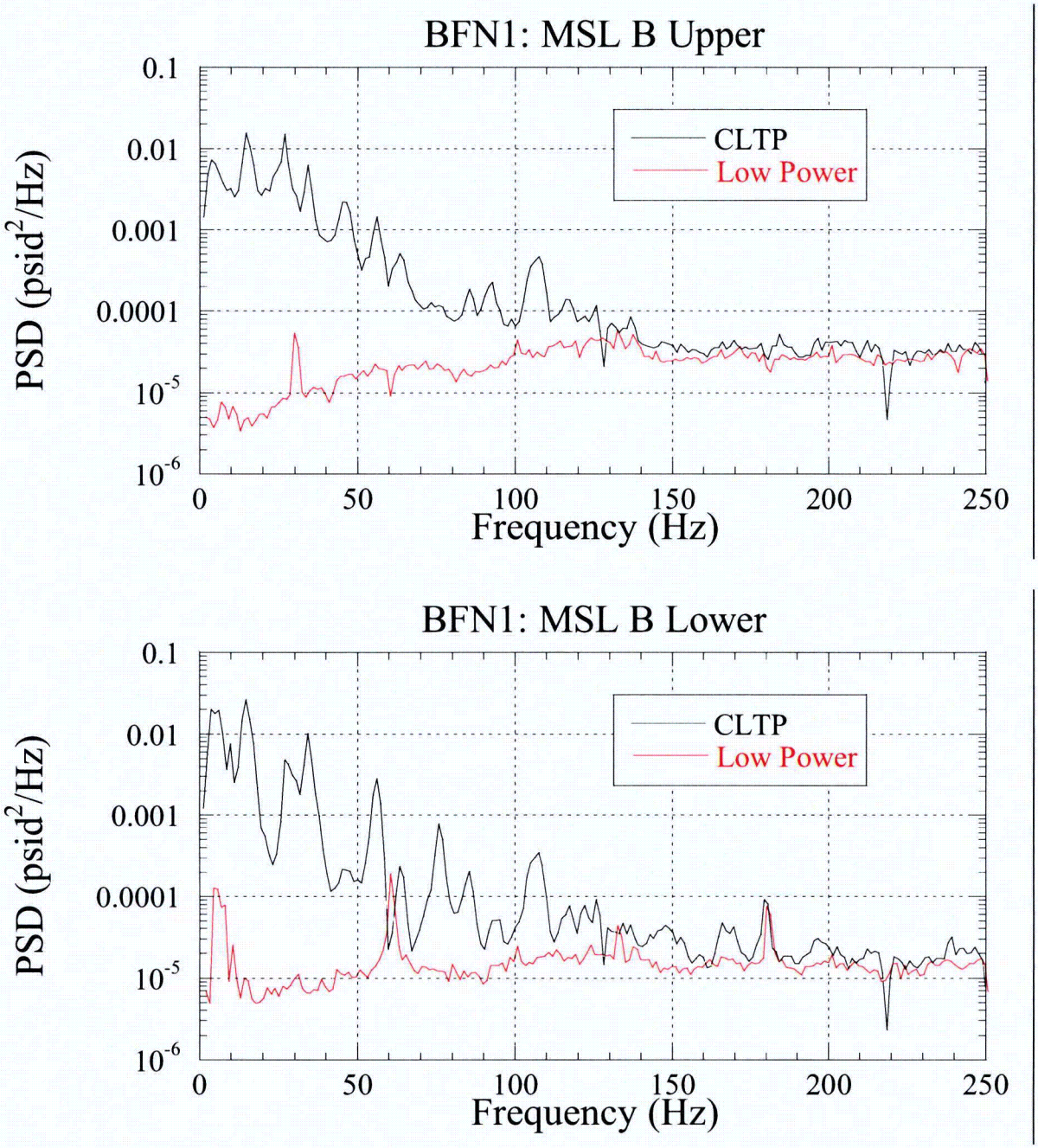

Figure 3.3. PSD comparison of pressure measurements on main steam line B at strain gage locations upper (top) and lower (bottom), for CLTP (black curves) and Low Power (red curves).

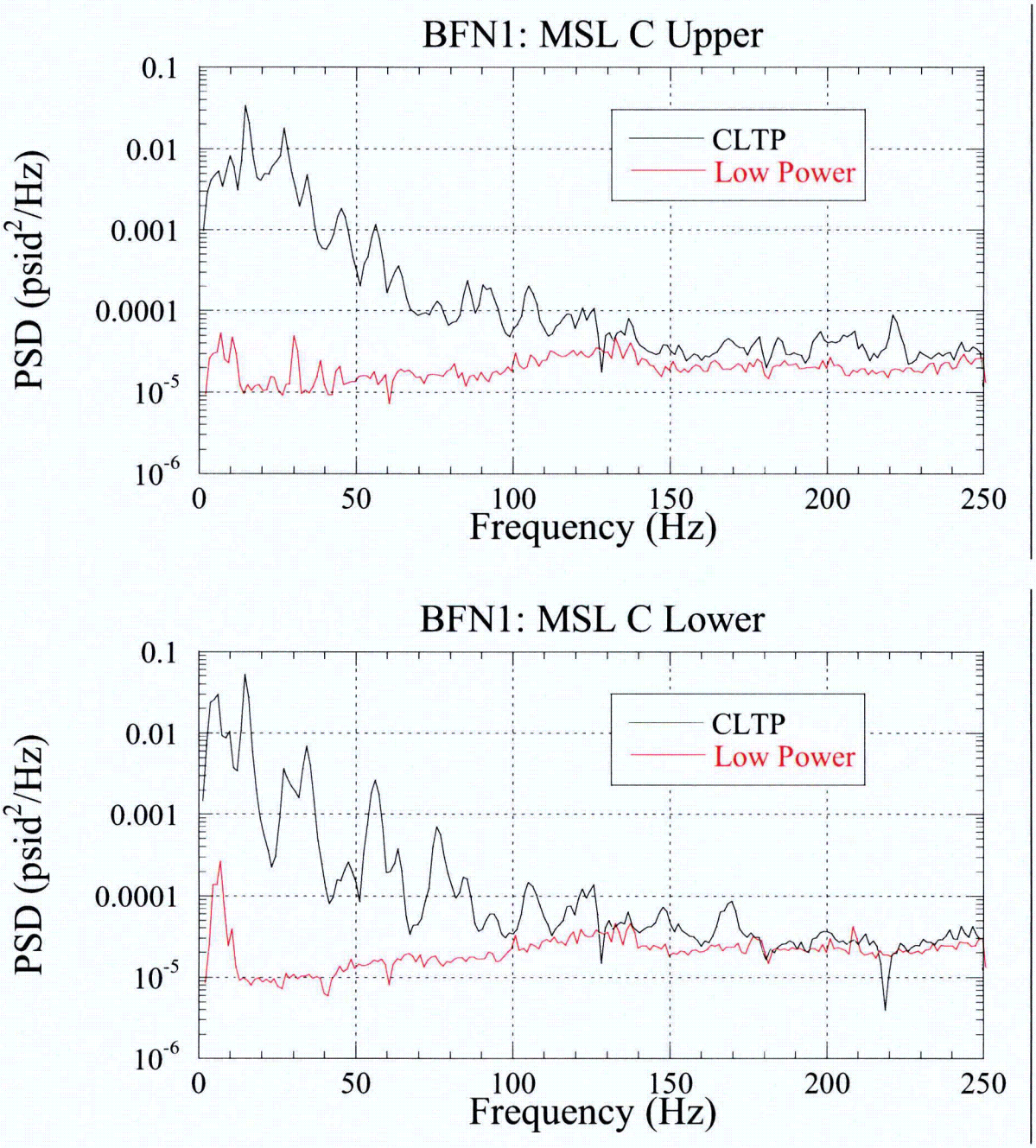

Figure 3.4. PSD comparison of pressure measurements on main steam line C at strain gage locations upper (top) and lower (bottom), for CLTP (black curves) and Low Power (red curves).

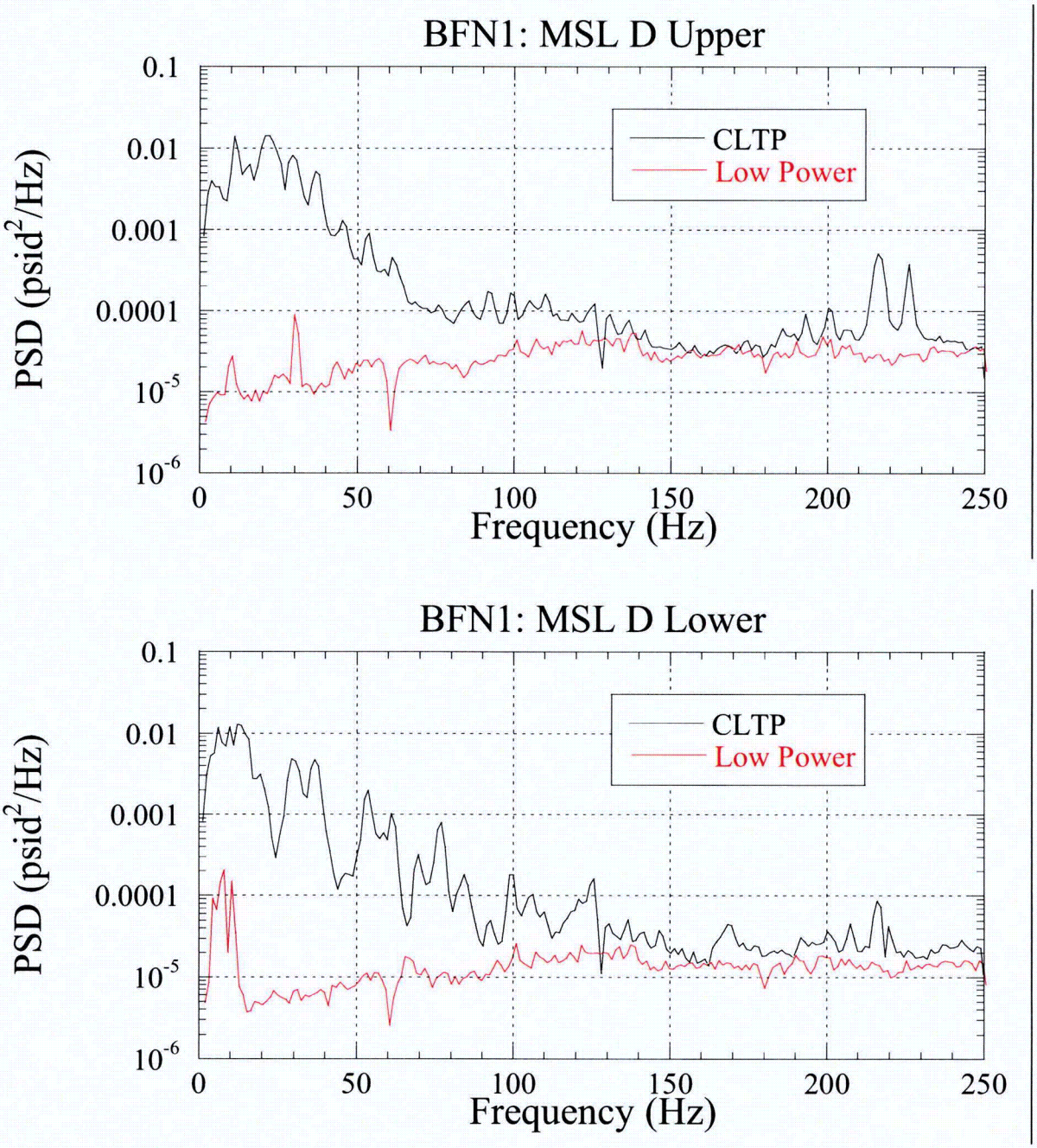

Figure 3.5. PSD comparison of pressure measurements on main steam line D at strain gage locations upper (top) and lower (bottom), for CLTP (black curves) and Low Power (red curves).

4. Results

The measured main steam line pressure data were used to drive the validated acoustic circuit methodology for the BFN1 steam dome coupled to the main steam lines to make a pressure load prediction on the BFN1 dryer. For the prediction shown here, the Low Power data are subtracted from the CLTP data using a formula similar to that shown for the removal of the electrical noise

$$P_R(\omega) = P_S(\omega)\left[1 - \left|\frac{P_L(\omega)}{P_S(\omega)}\right|\right]$$

where $P_R(\omega)$ is the CLTP signal $P_S(\omega)$ corrected for low power $P_L(\omega)$, computed as a function of frequency ω, and $|P_L(\omega)/P_S(\omega)|$ can be no larger than 0.5.

A low resolution load, developed at the nodal locations identified in Figures 4.1 to 4.4, produces the maximum differential and RMS pressure levels across the dryer as shown in Figure 4.5. PSDs of the peak loads on either side of the dryer are shown in Figure 4.6.

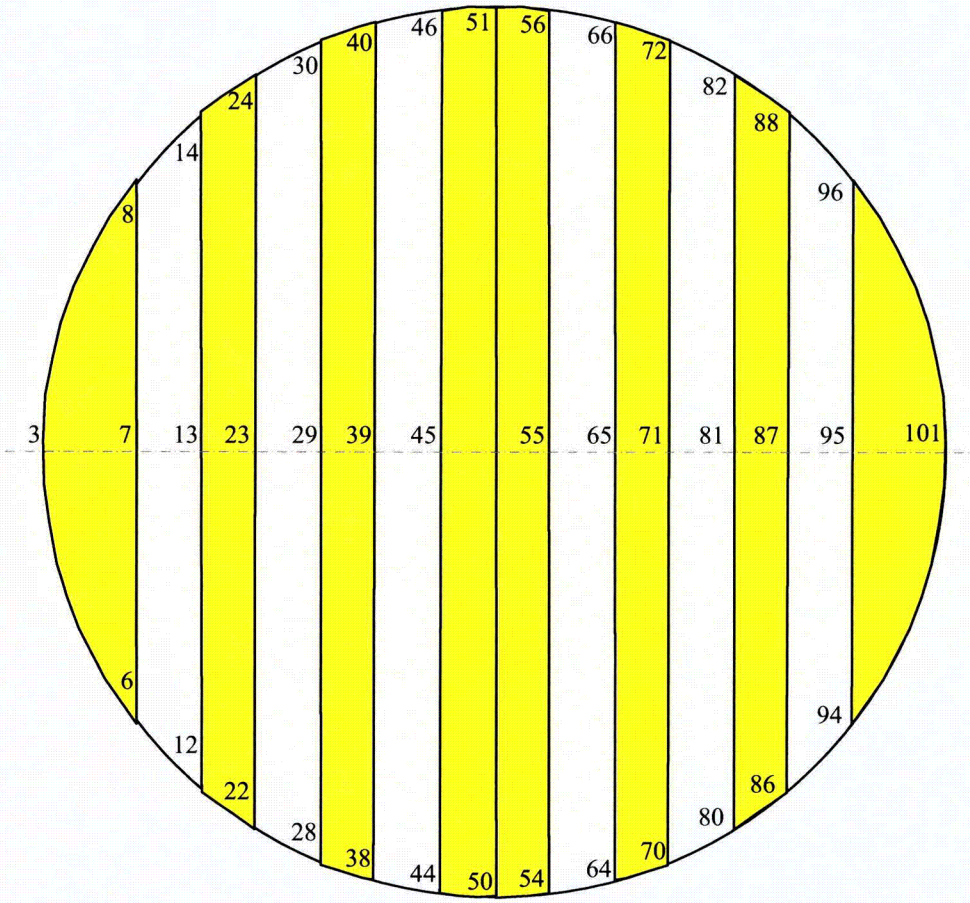

Figure 4.1. Bottom plates pressure node locations (low resolution), with pressures acting downward in the notation defined here.

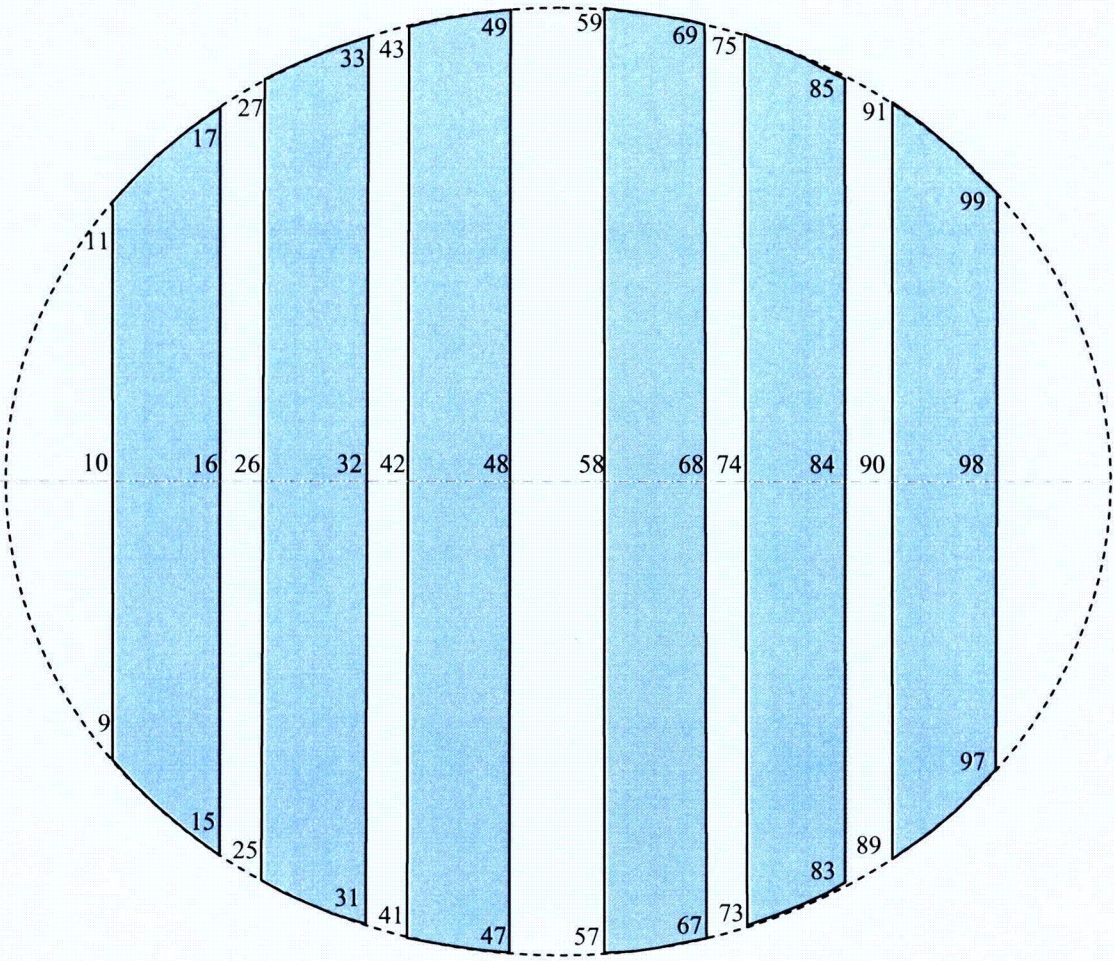

Figure 4.2. Top plates pressure node locations (low resolution), with pressures acting downward in the notation defined here.

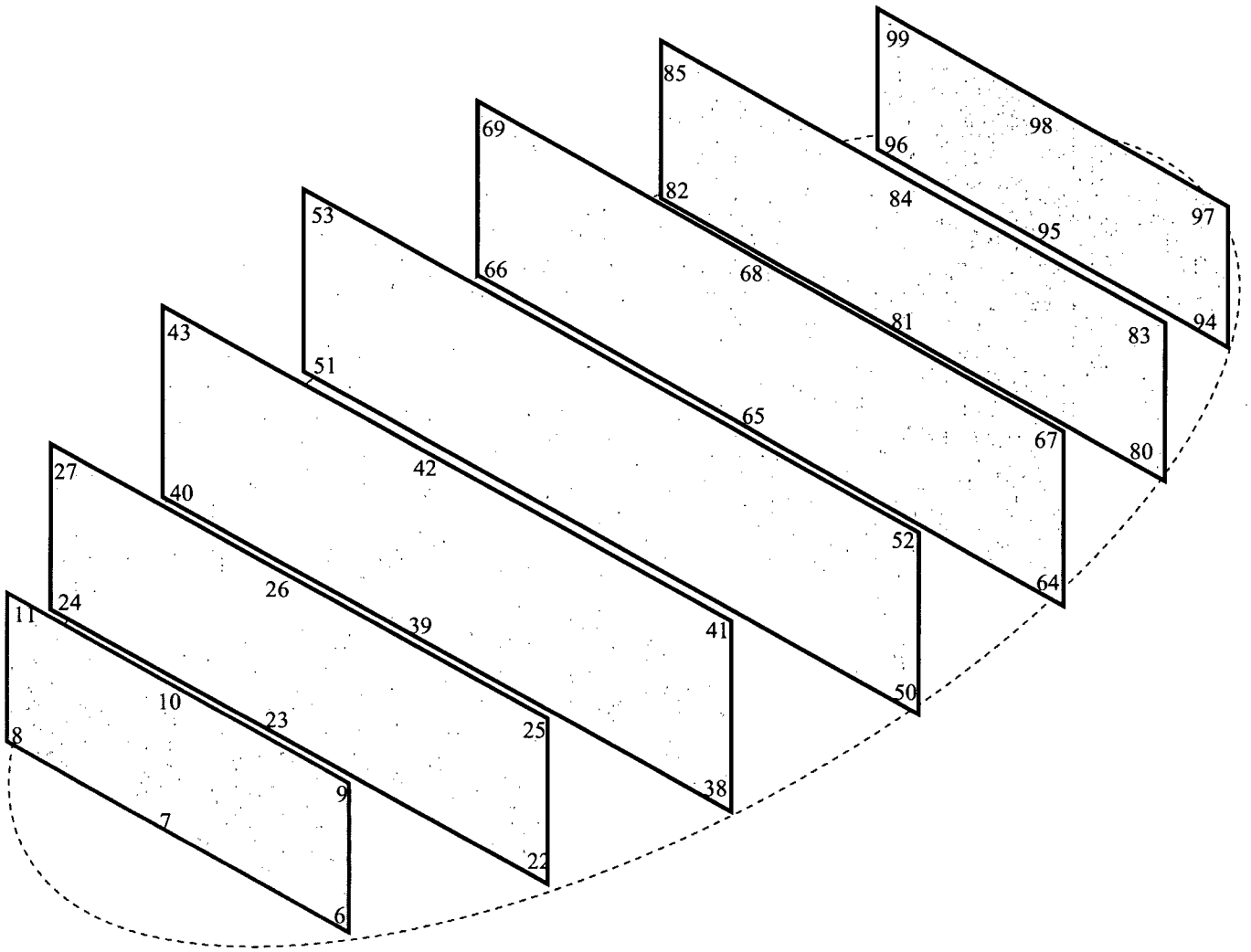

Figure 4.3. Vertical plates: Pressures acting left to right on panels 6-11, 22-27, 38-43, and 50-54; acting right to left on panels 64-69, 80-85, and 94-99 (low resolution).

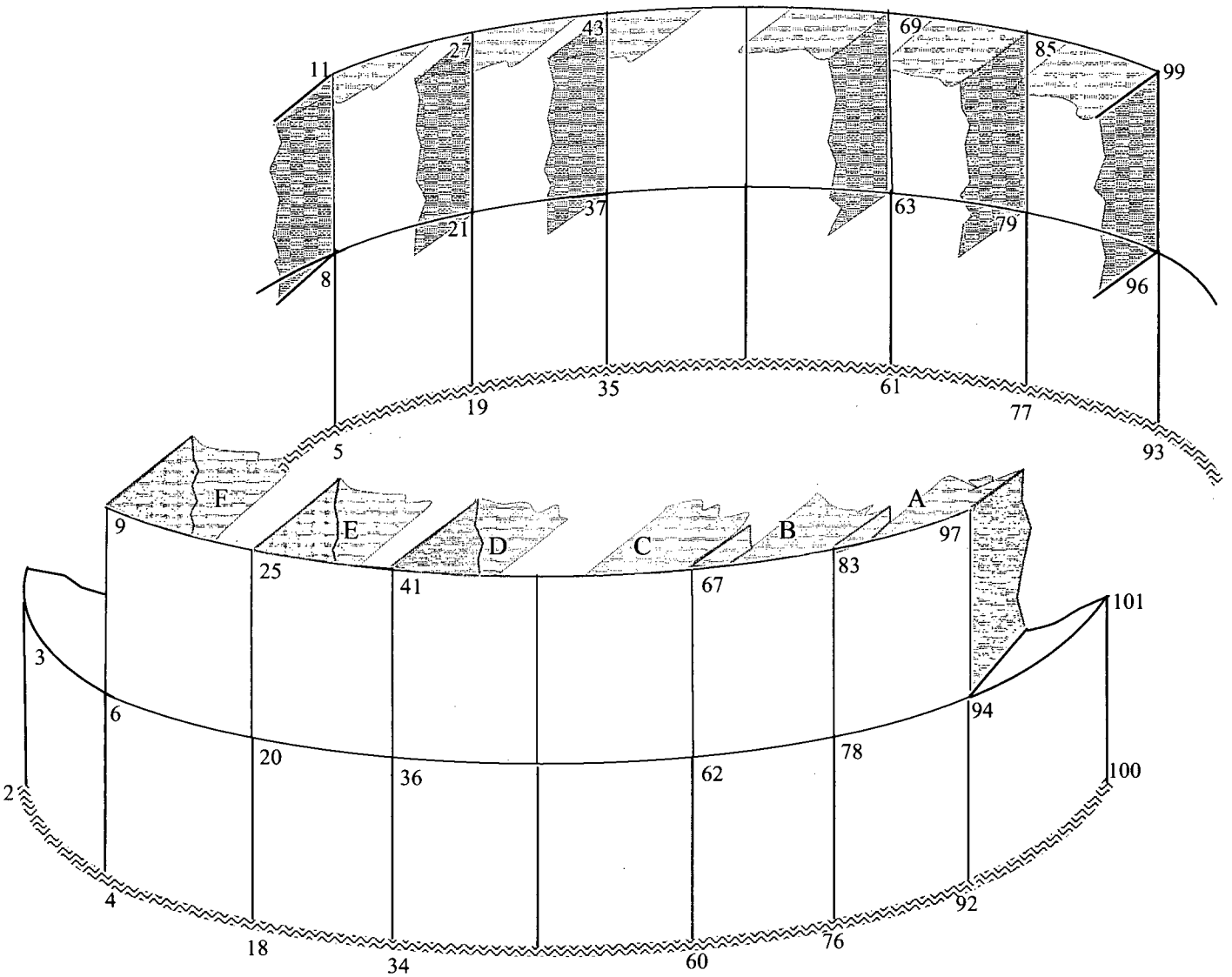

Figure 4.4. Skirt plates: Pressure acting outward on the outer dryer 0°/180° surfaces and the skirt (low resolution).

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(3)]]

Figure 4.5. Predicted loads on the low resolution grid identified in Figures 4.1 to 4.4, as developed by the Modified Bounding Pressure model, to 250 Hz. Low-numbered nodes are on the C-D side of the dryer, while high-numbered nodes are on the A-B side of the dryer.

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(3)]]

Figure 4.6. PSD of the maximum pressure loads predicted on the C-D side of the BFN1 dryer (top) and A-B side of the BFN1 dryer (bottom).

5. Uncertainty Analysis

The analysis of potential uncertainty occurring at BFN1 consists of several contributions, including the uncertainty from collecting data on the main steam lines at locations other than the locations on Quad Cities Unit 2 (QC2) and the uncertainty in the Modified Bounding Pressure model. QC2 dryer data at Original Licensed Thermal Power (OLTP) conditions were used to generate an uncertainty analysis of the Acoustic Circuit Methodology (ACM) [2] for BFN1.

The approach taken for bias and uncertainty is similar to that used by Vermont Yankee for power uprate [6]. In this analysis, six "averaged pressures" are examined on the instrumented replacement dryer at QC2: averaging pressure sensors P1, P2, and P3; P3, P5, and P6; P7, P8, and P9; P10, P11, and P12; P18 and P20; and P19 and P21. These pressure sensors were all on the outer bank hoods of the dryer, and the groups are comprised of sensors located vertically above or below each other.

Bias is computed by taking the difference between the measured and predicted RMS pressure values for the six "averaged pressures", and dividing the mean of this difference by the mean of the predicted RMS. RMS is computed by integrating the PSD across the frequency range of interest and taking the square root

$$\text{BIAS} = \frac{\frac{1}{N}\sum(\text{RMS}_{\text{measured}} - \text{RMS}_{\text{predicted}})}{\frac{1}{N}\sum \text{RMS}_{\text{predicted}}} \tag{5.1}$$

where $\text{RMS}_{\text{measured}}$ is the RMS of the measured data and $\text{RMS}_{\text{predicted}}$ is the RMS of the predicted data. Summations are over the number of "averaged pressures", or N = 6.

Uncertainty is defined as the fraction computed by the standard deviation

$$\text{UNCERTAINTY} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum(\text{RMS}_{\text{measured}} - \text{RMS}_{\text{predicted}})^2}}{\frac{1}{N}\sum \text{RMS}_{\text{predicted}}} \tag{5.2}$$

ACM bias and uncertainty results are compiled for specified frequency ranges of interest, as directed by [7] and summarized in Table 5.1. Other random uncertainties, specific to BFN1, are summarized in Table 5.2 and are typically combined with the ACM results by SRSS methods to determine an overall uncertainty for BFN1.

Table 5.1. BFN1 bias and uncertainty for specified frequency intervals. A negative bias indicates that the ACM overpredicts the QC2 data in that interval.

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(3)]]

Table 5.2. Bias and uncertainty contributions to total uncertainty for BFN1 plant data.

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(3)]]

6. Conclusions

The C.D.I. acoustic circuit analysis, using full-scale measured data for BFN1:

a) [[(3)]]

b) Predicts that the loads on dryer components are largest for components nearest the main steam line inlets and decrease inward into the reactor vessel.

7. References

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6. Communication from Enrico Betti. 2006. Excerpts from Entergy Calculation VYC-3001 (Rev. 3), EPU Steam Dryer Acceptance Criteria, Attachment I: VYNPS Steam Dryer Load Uncertainty (Proprietary).

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12. NRC Request for Additional Information on the Hope Creek Generating Station, Extended Power Uprate. 2007. RAI No. 14.79.

13. NRC Request for Additional Information on the Hope Creek Generating Station, Extended Power Uprate. 2007. RAI No. 14.110.